

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 29, 2011

ATTENDANCE: Deborah Blackwell; Mary Bogden; Honorable Judge Mimi Cooper; Warden Elwood DeHaven; Rosemary Dehn; Beth Jones; Kathy Kraft; Steve Lentowski; Sharon Lipford; Diane Lutz; Patrick McCracken; Sandra Merson; Dusty Rhodes; Joe Ryan; Larry Signorelli; Carol Taylor; Linda Williams

Robin Keener called the meeting to order and chaired the meeting.

Robin Keener stated the minutes of January 25, 2011 were approved online.

Rosemary Dehn from SPIN was our guest speaker. SPIN (Support Peer Independence Now) is to provide peer support, advocacy, individual empowerment, self-help, socialization, and information for mental health consumers. Located in Aberdeen, open 24-26 hours a week, 5 days a week. What makes SPIN unique is being among your peers and not feeling like a patient.

Sandra Merson states SPIN works with NAMI, churches, Alliance, and also conduct WRAP. WRAP is conducted when an individual is sick. SPIN has many resources for each member to do. There are 25-40 people a day.

Judge Mimi Cooper asked if there is a cost. **Sandra Merson** stated there is no cost. **Judge Mimi Cooper** stated if I am a consumer and I want to participate do I have to join. **Sandra Merson** stated there is one form with identification as far as membership.

Judge Mimi Cooper asked about transportation to the center. **Sandra Merson** stated there is a van that will pick you up and drop you off, but only for the Harford County area and only for those who are handicapped. We do supply vouchers. **Judge Mimi Cooper** asked if they want more members. **Sandra Merson** states yes.

Rosemary Dehn states they received a compliment from City Hall that since the presence of SPIN, crime has gone down in the community. They are recruiting for board members, 51% of the board needs to be consumer run, elections will be held in June, and they did have 6 to 7 board members but have increased it to 25.

Carol Taylor states, partnership wise, what do you need right now. **Rosemary Dehn** states we are busting at the seams with the house we are in; if we can have a bigger house, we can have more programs.

Carol Taylor states about needs on a day to day basis. **Sandra Merson** states the churches have been good, but we do need board games, and mental health and addiction books would be good.

Sharon Lipford states last year OMH served over 4,500 people in the public mental health system. 1,900 were children, young adults, and 2,597 were adults. OMH managed \$2.3 million in grants for public mental health. SAMHSA has developed 7 new initiatives (trauma, military healthcare reform, health information technology, recovery support services, data outcome and quality, public awareness, and support). Largest group receiving services is young adults. Budget reduction is 5%, starting July 1, OMH will have to reduce budget by \$53,000. Completed 6th

training of CIT. The Mental Hygiene Administration has a council meeting monthly they are requesting another council member to attend the meeting on April 29 from 10-2. The State has awarded OMH to start a trauma program implemented in the detention center, we need to write a proposal and send it out to providers and have them bid on the project. The project is due to start in July. We have a project called Workforce Development partnering with Susquehanna Workforce and the college. This will engage people who are interested in working in the mental health field to have them earn credits through the college, work study credits while working at their job, working towards an Associate's Degree. Transitional Age Youth will begin to have specialized training, which will put us in alignment for eligibility for grant.

Beth Jones states HOPE has received an extension through November 2012, we have a psychiatrist 2 hours a week just for clients. The parent group has 10 parents in each group; Joe Ryan has supplied us with resources. Counselors are overloaded; we have put in a request to hire more counselors.

Joe Ryan states we have prepared a grant for the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention for underage drinking, we are requesting \$40,000, for media campaign, heavy-on enforcement and educational material. We are seeking permission from Robin to sign off on the letter for the proposal.

Judge Mimi Cooper makes a motion for Robin Keener to sign proposal. **Sharon Lipford** seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

Joe Ryan states he has two proposals which are due by our next meeting. Both proposals are through ADAA. The first is a block grant for prevention activities; it is called environmental strategies to address underage drinking. This grant will pay for 2 staff personnel in my office, around \$103,000. The second proposal is focusing on underage drinking; we had to collect a lot of data and points to the Bel Air zip code. Proposal is due April 15, we just have to pick the area and they will call us and ask us for our game plan. We will be working with the Coalition and FACE-IT.

Judge Mimi Cooper stated that parental attitudes are extremely serious and are being overlooked. She proposed we could get the Aegis to start a discussion and get community response. She states she would like to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Robin Keener stated Homecoming's Basket Bingo on May 6.

Sandra Merson stated Father Martin's Ashley gives out scholarships for family members who need assistance.

Adjournment